

METRO-EAST REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AUTHORITY

DECEMBER 13, 2012 MINUTES

The Chairperson, Thomas Cannady, called to order the December 13, 2012 meeting at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was held at Cannady and AuBuchon, Belleville.

PRESENT

David Bollone, Member
Kingston Schmid, Vice-Chairperson
Margaret Merrell, Member
Emil Wilson, Member
Thomas Cannady, Chairperson
Dr. Marguerite Riley, Recording Secretary
Beverly Sweatman, Member

STAFF PRESENT

Michael J. Pintar, Coordinator

ABSENT

Carol Neudecker, Member
Karen Kelly, Member

GUESTS

INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairperson recognized that a quorum was present.

The Coordinator read the confidentiality statement that indicates that personally identifiable information should not be presented in public meetings in order to protect the privacy of those disabled persons on whose behalf the HRA conducts investigations.

The Chairperson asked for changes in the agenda there were no suggested changes

MINUTES

The members reviewed the stated minutes of the November 15, 2012 HRA meeting and considered them for approval. Members present agreed to approve the minutes with suggested corrections based on a motion by Emil Wilson, seconded by Marguerite Riley.

COMMUNICATIONS: Members discussed changing the regular meeting date from February 14th, which is Valentines Days to a week earlier, the 7th.

NEW BUSINESS:

12-070-9037 - In February 2012, the media announced that Gov Quinn had decided to close a state operated facility to move residents into community group homes. This was a budget decision, not based on the needs of residents. A letter from the agency Director dated February 24, 2012 indicates that the family will be contacted by Department of Human Services and still the residents and/or families have not received additional correspondence. No one has followed through on this promise or provided additional information. The HRA had a discussion, trying to determine the best way to proceed. Tabled at the last meeting. Upon a motion by Emil Wilson, seconded by Kingston Schmid, member voted to table case

opening

13-070-9007 - A young lady with mental illness lives at home and she has become dangerous. Regional agencies are not assisting the family for placement and instead point the finger at one another that the other should be handling placement. In the mean time, the daughter has threatened to harm herself and her father. She was taken to an area emergency room and after assessment they discharged her home, did not offer the family a petition for involuntary admission. Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Dr. Marguerite Riley, members voted not to accept the complaint for investigation.

13-070-9014 - a Psychiatrist is treating a patient for schizophrenia and the patient does not have those symptoms - he does not hear voices and he is not mentally ill.

Upon a motion by Kingston Schmid, seconded by Emil Wilson, members voted to table case acceptance.

13-070-9015 - a consumer was living independently and because of false accusations she was forced to move into a mental health facility where she is being mistreated. Staff are mean; they won't allow her to see her record. They have given her the wrong medication and did not follow orders to follow up with blood work and accu check. Blood sugar was over 200. They are using the wrong diagnosis and Seroquel is killing her. Upon a motion by Kingston Schmid, seconded by Thomas Cannady, members voted to investigate the allegations. Parkhaven

13-070-9016 - a consumer complains that racism is rampant among staff and consumers and a polarized unit. Mistreatment by staff is rampant. Upon a motion by Dr. Marguerite Riley, seconded by Emil Wilson, members voted not to accept the complaint for investigation.

13-070-9017 - a facility is offering a class that is being taught by persons who are not qualified during the evening hours. During these scam classes the rest of the staff turn off the television and do not allow phone calls even though the classes are held in a separate enclosed area. Consumers wonder if the classes aren't being scheduled just to interrupt phone and television time. Upon a motion by Thomas Cannady, seconded by Kingston Schmid, members agreed to case opening.

13-070-9018 - a trainee is alleged to violate rights of residents when she asks them to wipe tables, clean bathrooms, waking consumers for medication and meals. That staff refuses to wear a hairnet when delivering meal trays and consumers have found hair in their food when it was distributed by the staff member

Upon a motion by Emil Wilson, seconded by Kingston Schmid, members voted to investigation the allegation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Pursuant to Section 721 of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Act and Section 42 of the Open Meetings Act, upon a motion by Kingston Schmid, seconded by Thomas Cannady, the Authority went into closed session at 7:37 p.m. to discuss case progress and reports of findings.

Case Progress Reports:

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Case progress reports

12-070-9016 - Madison County Housing - a consumer was evicted & return property

12-070-9034 - Alton Mental Health Center - continuing education/computers

13-070-9001 - Alton Mental Health Center - cancelled computer

13-070-9002 - Alton Mental Health Center - rights on the unit

13-070-9006 - Equip for Equality - guardians oppose interactions at WM Center

13-070-9008 - Community Link - discharge

13-070-9009 - Alton Mental Health Center - no discharge plan

13-070-9010 - Madison County Housing - eviction notice

13-070-9013 - Alton Mental Health Center - dentures

B. Reports of Findings:

12-070-9022 - Wellsprings - discrimination

13-050-9005 - Alton Mental Health Center -dental services

C. Case Closures:

12-070-9023 & 12-070-9024 - Warren G. Murray - facility won't allow DNR & treatment team/adhere to guardian

12-070-9026 - Alton Mental Health Center - phones

12-070-9030 - Alton Mental Health Center - privileges

Upon a motion by Emil Wilson, seconded by Kingston Schmid, members voted to close the above cases. The HRA returned to open session at 7:51 p.m. upon a motion by Kingston Schmid, seconded by Emil Wilson.

Upon returning to open session:

A. Case Progress Reports:

13-070-9006 - Equip for Equality - Upon a motion by Kingston Schmid, seconded by Marguerite Riley, members voted to transfer this case to the Springfield Region upon

approval of the Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission's Director.

B. Reports of findings:

13-070-9012 - Alton Mental Health Center - blankets (personal property) Upon a motion by Emil Wilson, seconded by Kingston Schmid, members voted to accept the report of findings.

13-070-9005 - Alton Mental Health Center - dental Upon a motion by Beverly Sweatman, seconded by Dave Bollone, member voted to accept the report.

C. Case Closures:

12-070-9022 - Wellsprings - housing discrimination - Upon a motion by Beverly Sweatman, seconded by Thomas Cannady, members voted for case closure

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS:

The next meeting will be February 7, 2013 at Thomas Cannady's Law Office 1931 West Main Street, Belleville

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Dr. Marguerite Riley, Recording Secretary